

**To** All existing and future Specialist International Medical Graduate candidates assessed as Partially Comparable (Category I and Category II Exemption Status) and Substantially Comparable

**From** Committee for Specialist International Medical Graduate Education

**Date** 21 April 2015

**Pages** One including cover

**Subject** Change in eligibility of Specialist International Medical Graduate (SIMG) psychiatrists to work in designated Area of Need/Specialist positions in Australia

## Change in eligibility of SIMG psychiatrists to work in Area of Need/Specialist positions

To take effect 1 June 2015

To date, the Committee for Specialist International Medical Graduate Education (CSIMGE) has been involved with assessing the suitability of SIMG psychiatrist candidates assessed as partially and substantially comparable to work in Area of Need/Specialist positions in Australia. SIMG psychiatrists need to undergo a new Area of Need assessment by the College if they wish to obtain the required medical registration to work in an Area of Need/Specialist position. A panel of senior psychiatrists conduct an assessment of the candidate's suitability for the position taking into consideration the necessary skills, training and experience required to competently and safely work in the designated Area of Need position. As Area of Need positions are specialist or Consultant level positions in areas of medical workforce shortage, generally in rural and remote areas, it is necessary that candidates have had previous experience working at a specialist level to be able to competently and safely work in the Area of Need position.

*Taking this into careful consideration, the CSIMGE has concluded that only SIMG candidates assessed as substantially comparable by the College have the necessary skills, training and experience to work in Area of Need/Specialist positions.*

As at 1 June 2015, all new and existing candidates assessed as partially comparable (Category I and Category II Exemption Status) are no longer eligible to apply for new Area of Need/Specialist positions. Partially comparable candidates will be eligible to work in other positions, such as Senior Registrar or Senior Medical Officer.

Partially comparable candidates already in Area of Need/Specialist positions who have already been assessed by the College for the Area of Need positions can remain in their current positions. However, if these candidates wish to move to new Area of Need positions different to the ones they are already in, they will be unable to do so.

It is important to reiterate the requirement that all Specialist International Medical Graduates, upon application for Specialist Assessment, will be required to have an accepted job offer in Australia or New Zealand. Any SIMG psychiatrists without an accepted job offer will not be eligible to apply for Specialist Assessment until after an accepted job offer has been attained. Evidence of the accepted job offer in Australia or New Zealand will need to be provided upon application for Specialist Assessment.

If you have any queries or require clarification in relation to the content of this communique, feel free to contact the Specialist International Medical Graduate Education team via [simge@ranzcp.org](mailto:simge@ranzcp.org).